

**Dunn, Anna M (CHFS DMS)**

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**From:** Downey, Brian (Finance-Rep) [Brian\_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2010 1:11 PM  
**To:** Dunn, Anna M (CHFS DMS)  
**Subject:** A Letter from Ranking Member Charles E. Grassley  
**Attachments:** 2010-04-21 Letter to Kentucky Medicaid.pdf  
  
**Importance:** High

Hello,

Please find attached a letter from Senator Grassley. Please confirm receipt, thank you.

Sincerely,

Brian M. Downey  
Investigative Assistant  
U.S. Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC  
Senator Charles E. Grassley  
(P) 202-224-4515

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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

April 21, 2010

## Via Electronic Transmission

Elizabeth A. Johnson  
Commissioner  
Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services  
State of Kentucky  
275 East Main Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Commissioner Johnson:

In the United States, the federal and state governments spend roughly \$317 billion every year on the Medicaid program. As Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Finance, I have an obligation to ensure that taxpayer dollars are appropriately spent on federal health care programs. Like the Medicare program, Medicaid suffers from systemic weaknesses that lead to fraud, waste, and abuse across the program, resulting in higher costs and less health care to those who are in need. The overutilization of prescription drugs, whether through drug abuse or outright fraud, plays a significant role in the rising cost of our healthcare system. The purpose of this letter is to request information regarding certain outliers in Kentucky's Medicaid program and what steps Kentucky takes to monitor rates of utilization.

In recent inquiries, I have asked the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services about physicians prescribing mental health drugs at astonishingly high rates. In addition to these concerns, a recent CNN report detailed the increasing abuse of OxyContin, Roxicodone, and Xanax. Specifically, the report described the role some pain management clinics and physicians play in the black market for these drugs. I write today to better ascertain how high rates of both mental health and pain medication utilization are affecting the Medicaid program, as well as how Kentucky's rates compare to the national rates.

To that end, please provide charts that list of the top ten Medicaid prescribers of the following drugs for the years 2008 and 2009. For each prescriber, please provide his/her prescriber identifier, and the number of prescriptions written per drug per year, and the total amount billed to Medicaid per drug, separated for each year.

- Abilify;
- Geodon;
- Seroquel;
- Zyprexa;

**Drug X, 2008**

Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Total billed to Medicaid
123456789	25,000	250,000
234567891	24,000	240,000
345678912	23,000	230,000
456789123	22,000	220,000
567891234	21,000	210,000
678912345	20,000	200,000
789123456	19,000	190,000
891234567	18,000	180,000
912345678	17,000	170,000
012345678	16,000	160,000

**Drug X, 2009**

Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Total billed to Medicaid
123456789	25,000	250,000
234567891	24,000	240,000
345678912	23,000	230,000
456789123	22,000	220,000
567891234	21,000	210,000
678912345	20,000	200,000
789123456	19,000	190,000
891234567	18,000	180,000
912345678	17,000	170,000
012345678	16,000	160,000

## Dunn, Anna M (CHFS DMS)

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**From:** Dunn, Anna M (CHFS DMS) on behalf of Johnson, Elizabeth (CHFS DMS Comm)  
**Sent:** Friday, July 23, 2010 8:40 AM  
**To:** 'Brian\_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov'  
**Subject:** Response from KY Medicaid re: Mental Health and Pain Medication Utilization

Mr. Downey:

Enclosed below please find Kentucky Medicaid's response to Senator Grassley's letter dated April 21, 2010.



Top 10  
ibers FFY 200

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth A. Johnson*

Commissioner  
CHFS, Department for Medicaid Services  
275 East Main Street, 6W-A  
Frankfort, KY 40621  
P: 502.564.4321  
F: 502.564.0509

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## TOP 10 PRESCRIBERS FFY 2008, FFY 2009

FFY 2008: Top Prescribers of Abilify		
	Number of Claims	Total Dollars Paid
1	627	\$262,574
2	613	\$263,873
3	581	\$232,366
4	578	\$270,006
5	465	\$197,039
6	397	\$152,976
7	379	\$160,065
8	376	\$169,554
9	341	\$156,762
10	323	\$137,695
Total	4,680	\$2,002,909

FFY 2008: Top Prescribers of Risperidone		
	Number of Claims	Total Dollars Paid
1	1,255	\$299,355
2	973	\$216,826
3	952	\$279,518
4	896	\$261,322
5	884	\$306,484
6	834	\$181,218
7	733	\$130,957
8	693	\$165,817
9	566	\$113,636
10	555	\$119,038
Total	8,341	\$2,074,170

FFY 2008: Top Prescribers of Geodon		
	Number of Claims	Total Dollars Paid
1	431	\$129,898
2	264	\$67,406
3	258	\$77,812
4	226	\$46,874
5	225	\$64,613
6	204	\$47,958
7	195	\$62,048
8	170	\$59,443
9	149	\$38,359
10	145	\$49,542
Total	2,257	\$643,953

FFY 2008 Top Prescribers of Oxycontin		
	Number of Claims	Total Dollars Paid
1	127	\$17,367
2	82	\$29,245
3	53	\$7,775
4	49	\$21,938
5	44	\$18,340
6	42	\$8,668
7	41	\$4,866
8	40	\$9,716
9	40	\$17,119
10	40	\$10,437
Total	558	\$145,471

FFY 2008 Top Prescribers of Seroquel		
	Number of Claims	Total Dollars Paid
1	1,297	\$390,865
2	1,001	\$323,619
3	829	\$111,113
4	746	\$125,373
5	644	\$102,764
6	617	\$157,807
7	487	\$158,447
8	474	\$170,158
9	459	\$147,645
10	441	\$114,616
Total	6,935	\$1,802,406

FFY 2008 Top Prescribers of Roxicodone		
	Number of Claims	Total Dollars Paid
1	199	\$14,424
2	142	\$5,782
3	109	\$4,884
4	107	\$5,622
5	94	\$3,500
6	93	\$5,102
7	79	\$4,730
8	76	\$4,477
9	75	\$4,792
10		
Total	974	\$53,312

FFY 2008 Top Prescribers of Zyprexa		
	Number of Claims	Total Dollars Paid
1	344	\$149,234
2	301	\$162,952
3	258	\$145,032
4	226	\$149,498
5	214	\$86,037
6	169	\$70,941
7	164	\$93,600
8	159	\$65,151
9	148	\$76,154
10	141	\$62,639
Total	2,124	\$1,061,238

FFY 2008 Top Prescribers of Alprazolam		
	Number of Claims	Total Dollars Paid
1	2,069	\$17,808
2	1,349	\$9,873
3	1,347	\$15,908
4	881	\$5,884
5	834	\$5,916
6	821	\$10,945
7	734	\$4,347
8	701	\$6,888
9	701	\$6,576
10	658	\$4,176
Total	10,095	\$88,321

FFY 2009 Top Prescribers of Abilify		
	Number of Claims	Total Dollars Paid
1	1,026	\$453,894
2	706	\$435,694
3	688	\$351,088
4	640	\$289,186
5	645	\$276,432
6	509	\$240,643
7	493	\$252,936
8	473	\$199,379
9	465	\$184,505
10	438	\$204,066
Total	5,983	\$2,887,812

FFY 2009 Top Prescribers of Risperidone		
	Number of Claims	Total Dollars Paid
1	1,002	\$175,663
2	929	\$82,849
3	897	\$63,118
4	839	\$193,798
5	818	\$128,771
6	775	\$75,446
7	726	\$71,024
8	671	\$74,918
9	615	\$62,573
10	608	\$45,478
Total	7,880	\$963,637

FFY 2009 Top Prescribers of Geodon		
	Number of Claims	Total Dollars Paid
1	281	\$103,198
2	264	\$80,416
3	205	\$66,366
4	183	\$45,965
5	181	\$52,289
6	176	\$47,790
7	171	\$64,315
8	161	\$64,441
9	145	\$48,333
10	145	\$36,844
Total	1,912	\$599,947

FFY 2009 Top Prescribers of Oxycodone		
	Number of Claims	Total Dollars Paid
1	99	\$43,302
2	80	\$40,030
3	78	\$26,108
4	42	\$19,978
5	35	\$9,211
6	31	\$10,864
7	31	\$14,173
8	31	\$15,279
9	28	\$19,417
10	27	\$7,664
Total	482	\$206,025

FFY 2009 Top Prescribers of Seroquel		
	Number of Claims	Total Dollars Paid
1	1,398	\$450,699
2	673	\$133,857
3	629	\$108,530
4	598	\$227,103
5	523	\$143,638
6	508	\$140,588
7	494	\$183,097
8	486	\$90,099
9	484	\$223,136
10	470	\$121,009
Total	6,263	\$1,821,755

FFY 2009 Top Prescribers of Roxicodone		
	Number of Claims	Total Dollars Paid
1	227	\$26,157
2	196	\$14,241
3	155	\$11,007
4	149	\$7,894
5	130	\$12,028
6	126	\$3,620
7	121	\$10,013
8	113	\$9,754
9	112	\$12,713
10	110	\$5,614
Total	1,439	\$113,042

FFY 2009 Top Prescribers of Zyprexa		
	Number of Claims	Total Dollars Paid
1	393	\$208,004
2	235	\$121,989
3	211	\$157,477
4	188	\$110,780
5	156	\$99,933
6	150	\$101,957
7	146	\$73,887
8	146	\$73,818
9	145	\$94,333
10	131	\$50,008
Total	1,901	\$1,092,186

FFY 2009 Top Prescribers of Alprazolam		
	Number of Claims	Total Dollars Paid
1	2,132	\$18,541
2	1,507	\$16,196
3	1,240	\$11,627
4	1,185	\$13,767
5	1,121	\$8,819
6	1,100	\$7,862
7	732	\$6,210
8	707	\$4,283
9	668	\$4,159
10	613	\$4,598
Total	11,005	\$96,063